



**Site Visit Programmatic Questions
Positive Alternatives 2016
Birthright of Alexandria – May 9, 2016**

1. Update/ Demographic Reporting

- Review your two most recently submitted Update/Demographic Reports: are you meeting Report Count Goals?

Birthright of Alexandria has been consistent in meeting their work plan goals.

- Note any significant differences between the reports: are your programs stable? Improving? What do the reports indicate about progress in your programs?

All programs have been steady and above the numbers projected and detailed on the update reports. The parenting education class has had the lowest attendance on the last several quarterly reports.

- Any questions on the recording of data on either form?

No.

2. Work Plan

- Review your 2012-16 grant application's description of the program you requested to be funded. Note the services and activities you said you would provide and the number of clients you would serve.

- Please prepare a short summary of your current program(s) and the number of clients being served. Address these topics:

- a. How does what you describe in the application compare with what you are currently providing?

When we applied for the 2012-2016 grant we listed services based on what we perceived as true needs in our community. We offered programming targeting those needs, and our current programming is very similar to our grant request.

- b. Have any programs and/or activities or services been added or removed?

Yes, several years ago (with Mary Bocek's approval) we had to discontinue the prenatal bags. The prenatal bags were similar to the hospital layettes, but were to be given to women just beginning prenatal care. These bags contained information about our services, along with some personal care items and other resources. Not too long after we had just purchased the supplies for these kits our clinic was bought by Sanford, and Sanford doesn't allow their clinics to give away things like our bags. The other clinic in town has given away a few, as has public health personnel. This was a great idea and we still hope to find someone to distribute these for us!

- c. Have the number of clients being served per quarter decreased or increased in the 4th year?

Increased, definitely. Our crib and car seat programs are quite strong and very much appreciated by our community health care providers. Our parent education program seems to be strong in certain areas (cpr/first aid, labor), good in others (breastfeeding, shaken baby, discipline), and poorly attended in some (sewing!!). Life coaching isn't taking off as hoped, but the skills are being incorporated in all areas of our work. Also, the response from the one client who has tried it has been amazing--she decided to go to WIC, she signed up for a prenatal doctor appointment, and this week she is exploring ways to find a safer housing situation for her 14 month old son. These activities were NOT me telling her what to do--she decided for herself that these were actions she needed to take.

- d. Is there anything in particular you want to share about your current program to explain its current status?

We are just so thrilled to have the grant. It has truly made an impact in our community. Our three strongest education programs--car seat safety, safe sleep, and CPR/First Aid--are now accessible by those who would most likely not find them anywhere else.

3. Fiscal Review

- Review of the 2015-16 expenditures spreadsheet sent by Ellen Heit.
The grantee's other line item did not match with MDH. After careful review, the error was detected. An Excel spreadsheet has been revised for better tracking of PA funds.
- Have you revised your 2015-16 budget justification?
A budget revision will be sent in soon to move travel funds to supplies.
- Any questions on your completion of the 2014-16 grant and your budget?
A timeline was discussed with the end of this grant cycle and the start of the new grant cycle.

4. Do you have any questions on the findings from your **Financial Reconciliation**?

No.

5. Grant Closeout Form

- You will have an opportunity to review a draft of the Grant Closeout Form.

6. 2015-16 Evaluation - Due June 10th

- Your 2015-16 Evaluation Plan will be discussed. Any suggestions provided in your 2013-14 Report Summary should be included in the plan, if you are continuing the same evaluation.

BR of Alexandria will be completing and submitting their evaluation study on car seat education and proper use. They do a pre and post-test along with the education and demonstration of correct car seat usage. They will be sending their report to MDH by June 10th.

- Any questions on the expectations of the report or your organization's evaluation plan for 2015-16?

No.

7. Positive Alternatives website

- The PA website will be reconfigured once contracts are all signed.
- Resources for grantees will remain basically the same.
- WRTK booklet revisions have not yet been completed.

8. Grant Manager Updates

Information was given on PA policy updates, a future staff and director grant administration webinar will be held in early July, and questions were answered on new grant agreements.

9. Issues specific to this grantee

Questions were addressed on funding moving from one budget year to another and grant cycle funding past and present. The past grant cycle budgets were divided by 2 years. The new grant cycle budgets will be yearly.

10. Facility

- If your facility has been remodeled or updated please give an update. Do you have any plans to move your organization to another building in the near future?
- If grant-funded activity areas have been significantly altered, be prepared to discuss.

No changes planned for space or location.

11. Health Equity is a priority goal at the Minnesota Department of Health. How is your organization addressing this need?

BR of Alexandria has focused their programming to focus on the social determinants of health including: education and encouragement, tools to make changes, referral to help with issues or obstacles, health services and preventative education, partnering with community organizations, and individual behavior changes.

12. What are the new unaddressed needs in the communities you serve?

Unmet needs in this community are not enough assistance with mental health issues, day care for clients especially nontraditional hours, and housing shortages.

- Do you have a well-developed and up-to-date list of community partners available?
List at Center provides information for referral to 7 different counties. Updating is a big task.

- Are you able to make warm referrals to any of these partners?

This grantee attempts to call all referrals on their list first to find out more about their services and to make introductions. When they do make a referral they are confident of where they are sending their clients.

13. Clients stories (along with client data collection) are an important component of the work we do. Client stories fill in the gaps that data can't detail and humanize the efforts made by all grantees.

- Have you submitted your PA funded client stories yet?

A client story has been submitted.

14. How can MDH be more supportive of your program?

No suggestions.

15. Other?

BR of Alexandria has been able to offer a strong car seat and crib education and distribution program in their 7 county area. They are beginning to offer life coaching through their Center but are seeing a slow start to the program. They have, however, witnessed those who do attend the life coaching have had excellent results. This grantee is attempting to find additional resources to benefit their Earn While You Learn Program and have begun using *Injoy* teaching tools and videos to supplement their pregnancy and parenting education programs.

Site Visit Date: May 9, 2016

Center: Birthright of Alexandria

Grantee Staff: Julie Desautels

Positive Alternatives Grant Manager: Mary Ottman